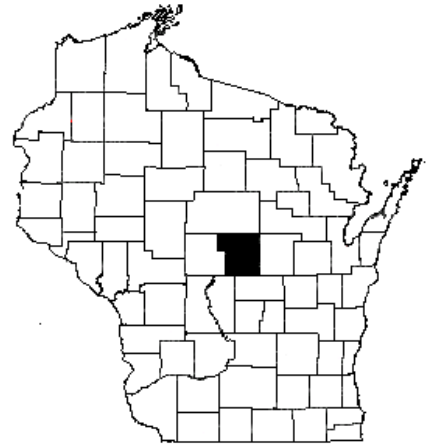




Fish and Wildlife Conservation

How Fish and Wildlife Dollars Are Used in Your Backyard

Portage County



County characteristics

- 806 sq. mi.
- Western portion is flat and sandy and the eastern portion is glacial moraine. There is a mixture of agriculture and woodlands throughout the county
- Waters: Wisconsin River; 135 lakes and 133 miles of trout streams
- There are 67,182 residents living in Portage County

State Land Open to Hunting and Fishing

- 28,232 acres of state land including wildlife and fisheries areas and natural areas open to hunting
- Contains part of the Mead Wildlife Area and Paul Olson Wildlife Area
- Buena Vista Wildlife Area
- Dewey Marsh Wildlife Area
- Numerous scattered fishery areas



Conservation Warden Roy Kubisiak

Locate DNR properties at:

http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/facilities/dnr_lands_mapping.html

Fish and Wildlife Staff serving you

- 1 Wildlife Biologist; 1 Fisheries Biologist; 1 Wildlife Technician; 2 Fisheries Technicians, 2 Conservation Wardens;
- DNR Service Center, 473 Griffith Ave. ,Wis. Rapids, 54494 (3 customer service staff)
- Mead Wildlife Area, S2148 Hwy "S", Milladore
- 1 Wildlife Biologist; 4 Technicians
- Staff also serve portions of Marathon, Adams, Wood, and Juneau Counties

Activities Funded by Your Hunting and Fishing Dollars

- Restore habitat on about 5,000 feet of trout stream annually in Portage County.
- Maintenance and development of upland forest, grassland and wetland habitat using prescribed burning, agriculture, mowing, timber sales and brush removal.
- Manage large areas of grassland and open landscape for prairie chickens and other grassland species on the Buena Vista Wildlife Area and on the Paul Olson Wildlife Area
- Control exotic and invasive species such as purple loosestrife, leafy spurge, cypress spurge, spotted knapweed, goldenrod, buckthorn, and black locust to assure quality native habitat.
- Manage DNR land by posting public hunting and fishing access sites, build and maintain parking areas.

- Monitor local wildlife populations of ducks, geese, ruffed grouse, prairie chicken, woodcock, turkey, deer, frogs, grassland birds, eagles, osprey, trumpeter swans.
- Respond to wildlife damage and nuisance complaints and monitor wildlife diseases including CWD and West Nile Virus.
- Provide educational programs for schools, conservation organizations and civic groups
- Excellent year-round fishing, recreational boating, snowmobiling on the Wisconsin River and a top 20 place among Wisconsin counties in the annual deer harvest creates a heavy workload for Conservation Wardens.

Portage County Conservation Snapshots

- **10** ALIS License AGENTS Supported
- **11** Deer, Turkey & Bear Registration Stations



Fish & Wildlife Stocking Summary

- In Portage County there are 5 lakes stocked with a total of 11,000 trout.
- In addition there are 10,000 brown trout stocked into the lower Tomorrow River in Portage County.
- One Day-old chick club stocks approximately 1,200 pheasants annually

County Success Stories

- Establishment of the Central Wisconsin Grassland Conservation Area to protect and enhance the grassland habitat to benefit numerous wildlife species
- Portage County contains critical habitat for the state-threatened Greater Prairie Chicken.
- Portage County supports populations of the Federally endangered Karner blue butterfly

Statewide challenges to maintaining your hunting and fishing opportunities

- Without a fee increase as proposed by Governor Doyle, the Department of Natural Resources will be forced make numerous cuts in:
 - Fish and wildlife stocking programs; Conservation law enforcement; Public hunting acres; Fish and wildlife field biologists and Customer services
- Keeping upland, shoreline and aquatic habitat intact and functional
- Multiple user conflicts - Increasing pressure on public lands
- Rapid growth – urban sprawl
- Nuisance wildlife and invasion by non-native species
- Disease management

Want to Learn More? Go to dnr.wi.gov/invest

March 2005